

**Abstract****UTILIZATION OF UNUSED DISK SPACE ON NETWORKED COMPUTERS**

5 A plurality of computers in a network (503-505) each have a processor and  
a non-volatile data storage device (500-502) such as a hard disk, a raid array, or  
the like. Each data storage device is divided into a first data storage area (203-  
205) and a second data storage area (509-511). The first data storage area is  
reserved for use by at least one processor to which it is assigned, whereas the  
10 second data storage area is hidden from use by the file system of the computer,  
and is used to store replicated data of other ones of the plurality of computer  
entities. In the event of failure of any one of the data storage devices, data can  
be recovered from the second data storage areas of the other data storage  
devices.

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